

NEW SHOREHAM SEWER AND WATER COMMISSION
JOINT MONTHLY MEETING
Thursday • February 19, 2015 • 4 p.m.
Town Hall, Old Town Road, Block Island

PRESENT were SEWER Commission members: P. McNerney (Chair), Wayne Battey (Vice Chair), Brad Marthens, Martha Ball, Terri Chmiel (Alternate)

PRESENT were WATER Commission members: Brad Marthens (Chair), Wayne Battey, P. McNerney, Martha Ball, Terri Chmiel (Alternate)

ABSENT were: Tom Doyle and Steve Draper

ALSO PRESENT were: Sewer Superintendent Christopher Blane, Principal Water Operator Jordan Ryan, Administrative Assistant Mona Helterline, and BI Times reporter.

With a quorum present the meeting was called to order at 4:02 p.m. by P. McNerney.

This was a continuation of the February 17, 2015 agenda which was postponed.

JOINT WATER and SEWER DISTRICT

1. Discussion and potential action regarding the scope of the following service contracts expiring June 2015:

Commissioners were asked to review the service contracts that would be going out to bid soon, in case there were any modifications needed.

- **Oil Burner/Water Heater Maintenance**

The Commissioners reviewed the contract and saw no changes necessary to the scope of services. It was suggested and agreed that there be a line added to the new contract which would allow the terms to be extended an additional two years with the signatures of both parties.

MOTION by B. Marthens to put the Oil Burner/Water Heater Maintenance Contract out to bid and that when the contract is prepared the option to extend an additional 2 years with signatures from all parties will be added. Seconded by P. McNerney.

Aye: 5 (McNerney, Marthens, Battey, Ball, Chmiel) Nay: 0. Abstain: 0.

- **Emergency Road Work**

The Commission discussed the potential need for clarity in this contract regarding the ability of the Sewer/Water department to perform some of its own work. The need for this revision became evident in 2014, when a sewer lateral needed to be installed on Ocean Avenue and the Commission wanted to consider the cost savings of doing the work in-house (April 21, 2014 minutes). It was agreed that the agenda item would be tabled until Engineer J. Geremia could provide input regarding the verbiage and scope of the contract. This would be addressed at the March monthly meeting.

2. Discussion and Potential Action regarding January 20, 2015 minutes.

One minor correction was noted (typo), otherwise the minutes were accepted as presented.

MOTION by P. McNerney to accept the minutes of the January 20, 2015 meeting as corrected. Seconded by B. Marthens.

Aye: 5 (McNerney, Marthens, Battey, Ball, Chmiel) Nay: 0. Abstain: 0.

WATER DISTRICT

3. Financials and Aging

Finance Director, A. Land was not present to discuss the financial and aging reports.

4. Water Operations Report

With the Superintendent on vacation, Jordan Ryan presented the Operations Report for January 2015. Main points were as follows:

- There was a decrease in production by 3.45% over last January
- Water loss was at 5.8% Fiscal Year-To-Date
- Metered Flow was down 55,000 gallons over last January.
- Watermark Electric tied up loose ends on the Well 4 Project. In addition, at the Superintendent's request, the well VFD's (Variable Frequency Drives) now have a two-tiered acceleration/deceleration cycle which would reduce "water hammer" during start up/shut down and would increase the pump life by reducing wear on the bearings.
- Backflow Prevention Testing will go out to bid and ready to award at March monthly meeting.
- Jimmy Collins officially retired February 2nd, 2015.
- Jordan Ryan received a Full Grade III Water Operator Treatment License from DOH- the highest level for BI Water Co.

B. Marthens confirmed that a quorum of Commissioners met on February 15, 2015 and hired Thom Burney who would be starting on March 4, 2015 or earlier depending on his situation. Both Marthens and Ryan emphasized that this was a great addition to the team. Discussion continued regarding the status of pipe bursts and freeze ups that had occurred over the last week due to the harsh weather. Compliments were given to both Jordan Ryan and Chris Blane for the way they had dealt with the issues.

5. Correspondence:

- **12/23/14 from Jim Geremia Re: Status of Water Grant 2010/2012/2014**

This letter summarized the status of the 2010-2014 water grants and explained the details of the final project, which is the rehabilitation of the original reverse osmosis water treatment system. The Commission's intention is to rehab the original unit with membranes furnished by the original manufacturer. The Commission requested and received agency approval for the direct purchase of the necessary membrane equipment without soliciting public bids.

SEWER DISTRICT

6. Discussion and potential action regarding the scope of the following service contracts expiring June 2015:

- **Sludge Container Removal**
The Commissioners reviewed the contract for sludge container removal. P. McNerney remembered that Blane had said in the past it would be ideal to have an extra container on the island. Conversation continued as to where that extra container could be placed and what the potential issues were regarding odor in the summer. It was identified that the 4th of July was really the problem month and when the extra container would be most needed. It was decided that Chris Blane would talk to the current vendor regarding the possibilities/logistics of an extra box on island, before the scope of services were changed. The Commission decided that they would like to add the option to extend an additional 2 years with the agreement of both parties. The item was tabled until the next monthly meeting (March 16, 2015).
- **Emergency Pumping and Hauling**
The Commission agreed that nothing needed to be adjusted regarding the scope of services. It was agreed that the contract should include the option to extend the contract an additional two years with both parties signature.

7. Financials and Aging

Financial Director A. Land was not present to discuss the financial and aging reports.

8. Sewer Operations Report

Sewer Superintendent C. Blane presented the Monthly Operations report for January 2015, main points were as follows:

- Effluent treated was 6% higher than January of last year.
- New Shoreham Wastewater Treatment Facility won the 2014 EPA Regional Operations and Maintenance award. The plant also won this award in 1994.
- 2G equipment at pump stations had been causing problems at the pump stations. This equipment will need to be upgraded to 4G as soon as possible as it is interfering with the alarm signals from pump stations.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPEN FORUM.

9. Commissioners' Announcements.

A meeting was announced and posted for February 24, 2015 at 12:30 p.m.

10. Public Comment for items not on the agenda.

There was none.

11. Adjournment.

MOTION by P. McNerney to adjourn at 4:40 p.m. Seconded by B. Marthens.

Aye: 5 (McNerney, Marthens, Battey, Ball, Chmiel) Nay: 0. Abstain: 0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mona Helterline
District Clerk

ACCEPTED: 3/16/15